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Social development: implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly; social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family; United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all; follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing

Social development

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Elena **Molaroni** (San Marino)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 13 September 2006, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-first session the item entitled

"Social development:

"(a) Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly;

"(b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family;

"(c) United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all;

"(d) Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing"

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 1st to 4th, 11th, 16th, 24th and 31st meetings, on 2, 3, 10, 12, 19 and 26 October 2006. At its 1st to 4th meetings,

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the Committee held a general discussion on sub-items (a)-(d) of agenda item 60. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/61/SR.1-4, 11, 16, 24 and 31).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (A/61/99);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing (A/61/167);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the implementation of the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade (A/61/151);

(d) Letter dated 3 October 2006 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/61/2).

4. At the 1st meeting, on 2 October, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization made introductory statements and responded to questions posed by the representatives of the Sudan, Finland, Lebanon, Cuba, the Philippines, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Turkey, Colombia and Benin (see A/C.3/61/SR.1).

II. Consideration of draft proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.4

5. At the 16th meeting, on 12 October, the representative of Mongolia, on behalf of Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Madagascar, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Panama, the Russian Federation and Senegal, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all" (A/C.3/61/L.4) and orally revised the text as follows:

(a) The beginning of preambular paragraph 3 was revised to read "*Reaffirming* the 2005 World Summit, which emphasized";

(b) At the end of the same paragraph, the following text was added: "and the need to strive for expanded secondary and higher education as well as vocational education and technical training, especially for girls and women, the creation of human resources and infrastructure capabilities and the empowerment of those living in poverty";

(c) In preambular paragraph 8, the words "that over 100 million children are still out of school" were replaced by the words "and about 100 million children of primary school age are still not enrolled in primary schools";

(d) In operative paragraph 1, the text of footnote 3 was replaced by "See A/61/151".

6. Subsequently Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, China, Colombia, Congo, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Moldova, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, the Netherlands, the Niger, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Tanzania, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

7. At the 24th meeting, on 19 October, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

8. At the same meeting, the representative of Mongolia further orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) The beginning of preambular paragraph 3 was further revised to read "Reaffirming the emphasis placed by the 2005 World Summit on the critical role";

(b) Operative paragraph 9, which read:

> "*Welcomes* the offer by the Government of Mongolia to host the Asia-Pacific midterm review of the Decade in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and invites the Member States in the region to take an active part in its preparations and organization",

was replaced by:

> "*Invites* Member States and the relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to take an active part in the preparation and organization of high-level regional conferences, scheduled to be held in 2007-2008 in Qatar, Azerbaijan, Mali, Costa Rica and in Asia and the Pacific, aimed at marshalling high political commitment, building an effective partnership among all the stakeholders and mobilizing resources needed for achieving the goals of the Decade and the International Plan of Action";

(c) At the end of operative paragraph 10, the following text was added: "including through programmes that promote low-cost and effective literacy provisions".

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.4, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 22, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.5 and Rev.1

10. At the 11th meeting, on 10 October, the representative of South Africa, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly" (A/C.3/61/L.5), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled 'World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world', held at Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

"*Reaffirming* that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session, as well as a continued global dialogue on social development issues, constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,

"*Recalling* the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the development goals contained therein, as well as the commitments made at major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, including the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit,

"*Recalling further* General Assembly resolution 60/209 of 19 December 2005 on the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006),

"*Acknowledging* that the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) launched after the World Summit for Social Development, in which Governments committed themselves to develop national strategies to eradicate absolute poverty and establish time-bound targets to substantially reduce poverty, has provided the long-term vision for sustained and concerted efforts at the national and international levels to eradicate poverty,

"*Recognizing* that the implementation of the commitments made during the Decade has fallen short of expectations and that there is evidence of an inverse correlation between the promises made at Copenhagen and the results achieved thus far,

"*Recalling* its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

"*Emphasizing* the need to strengthen the role of the Commission for Social Development for the follow-up and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Welcomes* the reaffirmation by Governments of their will and commitment to continue implementing the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action, in particular to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and foster social integration to achieve stable, safe and just societies for all;

"3. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Copenhagen commitments and the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Development Goals, are mutually reinforcing and that the Copenhagen commitments are crucial to a coherent, people-centred approach to development;

"4. *Reaffirms* that the Commission for Social Development continues to have the primary responsibility for the follow-up and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly and that it serves as the main United Nations forum for an intensified global dialogue on social development issues, and calls upon Member States, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society to enhance their support to its work;

"5. *Emphasizes* that the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit and the 2005 World Summit, have reinforced the priority and urgency of poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda;

"6. *Emphasizes also* that poverty eradication policies should attack poverty by addressing its root and structural causes and manifestations, and that equity and the reduction of inequalities need to be incorporated in those policies;

"7. *Stresses* that while economic growth is essential, entrenched inequality is an obstacle to the broad-based and sustained growth required for sustainable, inclusive people-centred development, and recognizes the need to balance measures to achieve growth with measures to achieve economic and social equity for there to be an impact on overall poverty levels;

"8. *Recognizes* that the broad concept of social development affirmed by the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly has been weakened in national and international policymaking and that, while poverty eradication is a central part of development policy and discourse, further attention should be given to the other commitments agreed to at the Summit, in particular those concerning employment and social integration, which have also suffered from a general disconnect between economic and social policymaking;

"9. *Stresses* that policies and programmes designed to achieve poverty eradication should include specific measures to foster social integration, including by providing marginalized socio-economic sectors and groups with equal access to opportunities and social protection;

"10. *Reaffirms* that social integration policies should seek to reduce inequalities, promote access to basic social services, education and health care,

increase the participation and integration of social groups, particularly youth, the elderly and persons with disabilities, and address the challenges posed by globalization and market-driven reforms on social development in order for all people in all countries to benefit from globalization;

"11. *Reaffirms also* the commitment to employment policies that promote full and productive employment and decent work for all under conditions of equity, equality, security and dignity, and also reaffirms that employment creation should be incorporated into macroeconomic policies;

"12. *Reaffirms further* the commitments made in 'Meeting the special needs of Africa' at the 2005 World Summit, underlines the call of the Economic and Social Council for enhanced coordination within the United Nations system and the ongoing efforts to harmonize the current initiatives on Africa, and requests the Commission for Social Development to continue to give due prominence in its work to the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

"13. *Reaffirms also* that each country has the primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, and underlines the importance of adopting effective measures, including new financial mechanisms as appropriate, to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth, sustainable development, poverty eradication and the strengthening of their democratic systems;

"14. *Reaffirms further*, in this context, that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries, including the least developed countries, in strengthening their human, institutional and technological capacity;

"15. *Stresses* that the international community should enhance its efforts to create an enabling environment for social development and poverty eradication through increasing market access for developing countries, technology transfer, financial aid and a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem;

"16. *Welcomes* the increased resources that will become available as a result of the establishment of timetables by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance by 2015 and to reach at least 0.5 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance by 2010 as well as, pursuant to the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, 0.15 per cent to 0.2 per cent for the least developed countries by no later than 2010, and urges those developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts in this regard in accordance with their commitments;

"17. *Welcomes also* innovative mechanisms of financing which contribute to the mobilization of resources for social development; in this regard recalls the New York Declaration on Action Against Hunger and Poverty of 20 September 2004, which launched the Action against Hunger and Poverty initiative and called for further attention to raise funds urgently needed to help meet the Millennium Development Goals and to complement

and ensure long term stability and predictability to foreign aid, and welcomes further the launching of the International Drug Purchase Facility on 19 September 2006, as the first multilateral initiative based on innovative financing funding aimed at scaling up access to diagnostics kits and treatment of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis for the poorest people in developing countries;

"18. *Reaffirms* that social development requires the active involvement of all actors in the development process, including civil society organizations, corporations and small businesses, and that partnerships among all relevant actors are increasingly becoming part of national and international cooperation for social development, and also reaffirms that, within countries, partnerships among the Government, civil society and the private sector can contribute effectively to the achievement of social development goals;

"19. *Underlines* the responsibility of the private sector, at both the national and the international levels, including small and large companies and transnational corporations, regarding not only the economic and financial but also the development, social, gender and environmental implications of their activities, their obligations towards their workers and their contributions to achieving sustainable development, including social development, and emphasizes the need to take concrete actions within the United Nations system and through the participation of all relevant stakeholders on corporate responsibility and accountability, including for the prevention or prosecution of corruption;

"20. *Invites* the Secretary-General, the Economic and Social Council, the regional commissions, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental forums, within their respective mandates, to continue to integrate into their work programmes and give priority attention to the Copenhagen commitments and the Declaration on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development, to continue to be actively involved in their follow-up and to monitor the achievement of those commitments and undertakings;

"21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled 'Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly', and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the question to the Assembly at that session."

11. At its 31st meeting, on 26 October, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.3/61/L.5/Rev.1), submitted by South Africa on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

12. At the same meeting, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

13. Also at the same meeting, the representative of South Africa orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 9, the words "and recognizes that balancing and ensuring complementarity between" were replaced by "and recognizes the need to balance and ensure complementarity between";

(b) Operative paragraph 14 should read:

"*Welcomes* the ministerial declaration, adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2006 of the Economic and Social Council, on 'Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development'";

(c) In operative paragraph 22, the words "in accordance with their commitments" should be placed after the words "done so";

(d) Operative paragraph 23 should read:

"*Welcomes* the contribution to the mobilization of resources for social development by the initiatives on a voluntary basis taken by groups of Member States based on innovative financing mechanisms, including those that aim to provide further drug access at affordable prices to developing countries on a sustainable and predictable basis, such as the International Drug Purchase Facility, UNITAID, as well as other initiatives, such as the International Finance Facility for Immunisation, and notes the New York Declaration of 20 September 2004, which launched the Action on Hunger and Poverty initiative and called for further attention to raise funds urgently needed to help meet the Millennium Development Goals and to complement and ensure long-term stability and predictability to foreign aid".

14. Subsequently, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

15. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.5/Rev.1, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 22, draft resolution II).

16. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States of America made a statement (A/C.3/61/SR.31).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.6

17. At the 11th meeting, on 10 October, the representative of South Africa, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing" (A/C.3/61/L.6).

18. Subsequently Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom of

Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

19. At its 24th meeting, on 19 October, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

20. Also at the same meeting, the representative of South Africa orally revised the draft text as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 3, after the words "community-based organizations", insert the words "including caregivers";

(b) In operative paragraph 6, replace the words "*Calls upon*" with the word "*Encourages*";

(c) In operative paragraph 9, after the words "Second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002", insert the words "as well as policy recommendations for the further implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action";

(d) Also in operative paragraph 9, after the words "review and appraisal", add the words "including best practices";

(e) In operative paragraph 11, after the words "present resolution", insert the words "including information on", and delete the words "and to mark".

21. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/61/L.6, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 22, draft resolution III).

III. Recommendation of the Third Committee

22. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/116 of 19 December 2001, by which it proclaimed the ten-year period beginning on 1 January 2003 the United Nations Literacy Decade, its resolution 57/166 of 18 December 2002, in which it welcomed the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade, and its resolution 59/149 of 20 December 2004,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] in which Member States resolved to ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that girls and boys will have equal access to all levels of education, which requires a renewed commitment to promote literacy for all,

Reaffirming the emphasis placed by the 2005 World Summit on the critical role of both formal and informal education in the achievement of poverty eradication and other development goals as envisaged in the Millennium Declaration, in particular basic education and training for eradicating illiteracy, and the need to strive for expanded secondary and higher education as well as vocational education and technical training, especially for girls and women, the creation of human resources and infrastructure capabilities and the empowerment of those living in poverty,

Reaffirming also that a basic education is crucial to nation-building, that literacy for all is at the heart of basic education for all and that creating literate environments and societies is essential for achieving the goals of eradicating poverty, reducing child mortality, curbing population growth, achieving gender equality and ensuring sustainable development, peace and democracy,

Convinced that literacy is crucial to the acquisition by every child, youth and adult of the essential life skills that will enable them to address the challenges that they can face in life and represents an essential step in basic education, which is an indispensable means for effective participation in the societies and economies of the twenty-first century,

Affirming that the realization of the right to education, especially for girls, contributes to the promotion of gender equality and the eradication of poverty,

Welcoming the considerable efforts that have been made to address the objectives of the Decade at various levels,

Noting with deep concern that 771 million adults over the age of 15 lack basic literacy skills worldwide and about 100 million children of primary school age are still not enrolled in primary schools, that the issue of illiteracy may not be

[1] See resolution 55/2.

sufficiently high on national agendas to generate the kind of political and economic support required to address global illiteracy challenges and that the world is unlikely to meet those challenges if the present trends continue,

Deeply concerned about the persistence of the gender gap in education, which is reflected by the fact that nearly two thirds of the world's adult illiterates are women,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the implementation of the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade;[2]

2. *Welcomes* the efforts made so far by Member States and the international community in implementing the International Plan of Action;

3. *Appeals* to all Governments to develop reliable literacy data and information and to further reinforce political will, mobilize adequate national resources, develop more inclusive policymaking environments and devise innovative strategies for reaching the poorest and most marginalized groups and for seeking alternative formal and non-formal approaches to learning with a view to achieving the goals of the Decade;

4. *Urges* all Governments to take the lead in coordinating the activities of the Decade at the national level, bringing all relevant national actors together in a sustained dialogue and collaborative action on policy formulation, implementation and evaluation of literacy efforts;

5. *Appeals* to all Governments and professional organizations to strengthen national and professional educational institutions in their countries with a view to expanding their capacity and promoting the quality of education, with particular focus on literacy;

6. *Appeals* to all Governments and to economic and financial organizations and institutions, both national and international, to lend greater financial and material support to the efforts to increase literacy and achieve the goals of education for all and those of the Decade, through, inter alia, the 20/20 initiative,[3] as appropriate;

7. *Invites* Member States, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to intensify their efforts to implement effectively the International Plan of Action and to integrate substantially those efforts in the Education for All process and other initiatives and activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and within the framework of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[1]

8. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to reinforce its lead role in coordinating and catalysing the activities of the Decade at the regional and international levels, prepare and conduct the

[2] See A/61/151.

[3] See *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II, para. 88 (c).

mid-Decade review in collaboration with all Decade partners during 2007 and 2008 and submit its results to the General Assembly;

9. *Invites* Member States and the relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to take an active part in the preparation and organization of high-level regional conferences, scheduled to be held in 2007-2008 in Qatar, Azerbaijan, Mali, Costa Rica and in Asia and the Pacific, aimed at marshalling high political commitment, building an effective partnership among all the stakeholders and mobilizing resources needed for achieving the goals of the Decade and the International Plan of Action;

10. *Requests* all relevant entities of the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in cooperation with national Governments, to take immediate, concrete steps to address the needs of countries with high illiteracy rates and/or with large populations of illiterate adults, with particular regard to women, including through programmes that promote low-cost and effective literacy provisions;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to seek the views of Member States on the progress achieved in implementing their national programmes and plans of action for the Decade and to submit the next progress report on the implementation of the International Plan of Action to the General Assembly in 2008;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session, under the item entitled "Social development", the sub-item entitled "United Nations Literacy Decade: education for all".

Draft resolution II
Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held at Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action[1] and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session,[2] as well as a continued global dialogue on social development issues, constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration[3] and the development goals contained therein, as well as the commitments made at major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, including the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit,[4]

Recalling also its resolution 60/209 of 19 December 2005 on the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006),

Recalling further its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Emphasizing the need to enhance the role of the Commission for Social Development in the follow-up and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

2. *Welcomes* the reaffirmation by Governments of their will and commitment to continue implementing the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action,[1] in particular to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and foster social integration to achieve stable, safe and just societies for all;

3. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Copenhagen commitments and the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Development Goals, are mutually reinforcing and that

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[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] Resolution S-24/2, annex.

[3] See resolution 55/2.

[4] See resolution 60/1.

[5] A/61/99.

the Copenhagen commitments are crucial to a coherent people-centred approach to development;

4. *Reaffirms* that the Commission for Social Development continues to have the primary responsibility for the follow-up and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly and that it serves as the main United Nations forum for an intensified global dialogue on social development issues, and calls upon Member States, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society to enhance their support for its work;

5. *Recognizes* that the broad concept of social development affirmed by the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly has been weakened in national and international policymaking and that, while poverty eradication is a central part of development policy and discourse, further attention should be given to the other commitments agreed to at the Summit, in particular those concerning employment and social integration, which have also suffered from a general disconnect between economic and social policymaking;

6. *Acknowledges* that the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), launched after the World Summit for Social Development, has provided the long-term vision for sustained and concerted efforts at the national and international levels to eradicate poverty and recognizes that the implementation of the commitments made by Governments during the Decade has fallen short of expectations;

7. *Emphasizes* that the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit and the 2005 World Summit, have reinforced the priority and urgency of poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda;

8. *Also emphasizes* that poverty eradication policies should attack poverty by addressing its root and structural causes and manifestations, and that equity and the reduction of inequalities need to be incorporated in those policies;

9. *Stresses* that an enabling environment is a critical precondition for achieving equity and social development and that, while economic growth is essential, entrenched inequality and marginalization are an obstacle to the broad-based and sustained growth required for sustainable, inclusive people-centred development, and recognizes the need to balance and ensure complementarity between measures to achieve growth and measures to achieve economic and social equity in order for there to be an impact on overall poverty levels;

10. *Also stresses* that policies and programmes designed to achieve poverty eradication should include specific measures to foster social integration, including by providing marginalized socio-economic sectors and groups with equal access to opportunities and social protection;

11. *Reaffirms* that social integration policies should seek to reduce inequalities, promote access to basic social services, education for all and health care, increase the participation and integration of social groups, particularly youth, older persons and persons with disabilities, and address the challenges posed by

globalization and market-driven reforms to social development in order for all people in all countries to benefit from globalization;

12. *Recognizes* the need to promote respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to address the most pressing social needs of people living in poverty, including through the design and development of appropriate mechanisms to strengthen and consolidate democratic institutions and governance;

13. *Reaffirms* the commitment to the empowerment of women and gender equality and to strengthening policies and programmes that improve, ensure and broaden the full participation of women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, as equal partners, and to improving their access to all resources needed for the full exercise of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms by removing persistent barriers;

14. *Welcomes* the ministerial declaration, adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2006 of the Economic and Social Council, on "Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development";[6]

15. *Reaffirms* that there is an urgent need to create an environment at the national and international levels that is conducive to the attainment of full and productive employment and decent work for all as a foundation for sustainable development and that an environment that supports investment, growth and entrepreneurship is essential to the creation of new job opportunities, and also reaffirms that opportunities for men and women to obtain productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity are essential to ensuring the eradication of hunger and poverty, the improvement of economic and social well-being for all, the achievement of sustained economic growth and sustainable development of all nations and a fully inclusive and equitable globalization;

16. *Also reaffirms* the commitment to employment policies that promote full and productive employment and decent work for all under conditions of equity, equality, security and dignity, and further reaffirms that employment creation should be incorporated into macroeconomic policies;

17. *Further reaffirms* the commitments made in respect of "Meeting the special needs of Africa" at the 2005 World Summit,[7] underlines the call of the Economic and Social Council for enhanced coordination within the United Nations system and the ongoing efforts to harmonize the current initiatives on Africa, and requests the Commission for Social Development to continue to give due prominence in its work to the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;[8]

18. *Reaffirms* that each country has the primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, and underlines the importance of adopting effective measures, including new financial mechanisms, as appropriate, to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth,

[6] See A/61/3, chap. III, para. 50.

[7] See resolution 60/1, para. 68.

[8] A/57/304, annex.

sustainable development, poverty eradication and the strengthening of their democratic systems;

19. *Also reaffirms*, in this context, that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries, including the least developed countries, in strengthening their human, institutional and technological capacity;

20. *Stresses* that the international community shall enhance its efforts to create an enabling environment for social development and poverty eradication through increasing market access for developing countries, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, financial aid and a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem;

21. *Acknowledges* that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels are essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger;

22. *Urges* developed countries that have not yet done so in accordance with their commitments, to make concrete efforts towards meeting the targets of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.2 per cent of their gross national product to least developed countries, and encourages developing countries to build on the progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help meet development goals and targets;

23. *Welcomes* the contribution to the mobilization of resources for social development by the initiatives on a voluntary basis taken by groups of Member States based on innovative financing mechanisms, including those that aim to provide further drug access at affordable prices to developing countries on a sustainable and predictable basis, such as the International Drug Purchase Facility, UNITAID, as well as other initiatives, such as the International Finance Facility for Immunisation, and notes the New York Declaration on Action against Hunger and Poverty of 20 September 2004, which launched the Action on Hunger and Poverty initiative and called for further attention to raise funds urgently needed to help meet the Millennium Development Goals and to complement and ensure long-term stability and predictability to foreign aid;

24. *Reaffirms* that social development requires the active involvement of all actors in the development process, including civil society organizations, corporations and small businesses, and that partnerships among all relevant actors are increasingly becoming part of national and international cooperation for social development, and also reaffirms that, within countries, partnerships among the Government, civil society and the private sector can contribute effectively to the achievement of social development goals;

25. *Underlines* the responsibility of the private sector, at both the national and the international levels, including small and large companies and transnational corporations, regarding not only the economic and financial but also the development, social, gender and environmental implications of their activities, their obligations towards their workers and their contributions to achieving sustainable development, including social development, and emphasizes the need to take concrete actions on corporate responsibility and accountability, including through the participation of all relevant stakeholders, inter alia, for the prevention or prosecution of corruption;

26. *Invites* the Secretary-General, the Economic and Social Council, the regional commissions, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental forums, within their respective mandates, to continue to integrate into their work programmes and give priority attention to the Copenhagen commitments and the Declaration on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development,[9] to continue to be actively involved in their follow-up and to monitor the achievement of those commitments and undertakings;

27. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly", and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the question to the Assembly at that session.

[9] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 6* (E/2005/26), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2005/234.

Draft resolution III
Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 57/167 of 18 December 2002, in which it endorsed the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[1] as well as its resolution 58/134 of 22 December 2003, in which it took note, inter alia, of the road map for the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and its resolutions 59/150 of 20 December 2004 and 60/135 of 16 December 2005,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/14 of 21 July 2003, in which the Council invited Governments, the United Nations system and civil society to participate in a "bottom-up" approach to the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action,

Recalling further Commission for Social Development resolution 42/1 of 13 February 2004,[2] in which the Commission decided to undertake the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action every five years,

Mindful that, in its resolution 44/1,[3] the Commission for Social Development endorsed the calendar and the global theme for the first review and appraisal of the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, "Addressing the challenges and opportunities of ageing", and decided to start the first global cycle of review and appraisal in 2007 at its forty-fifth session and to conclude it in 2008 at its forty-sixth session,

Taking note of the report by the Secretary-General on follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing,[4]

1. *Encourages* Governments to pay greater attention to building capacity to eradicate poverty among older persons, particularly older women, by mainstreaming ageing issues into poverty eradication strategies and national development plans, and by encouraging greater consultation with older persons in the course of developing, implementing and monitoring poverty eradication plans;

2. *Invites* Governments to conduct their ageing-related policies through inclusive consultations with relevant stakeholders and social development partners, in the interest of creating national policy ownership and consensus-building;

3. *Encourages* the international community to support national efforts to forge stronger partnerships with civil society, including organizations of older persons, academia, research foundations, community-based organizations, including caregivers, and the private sector, in an effort to help build capacity on ageing issues;

4. *Invites* Governments that have not done so to designate focal points for handling follow-up of national plans of action on ageing;

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[1] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 6* (E/2004/26), chap. I, sect. E.

[3] Ibid., 2006, Supplement No. 6 (E/2006/26), chap. I, sect. C.

[4] A/61/167.

5. *Calls upon* Governments to promote a bottom-up participatory approach throughout the entire implementation process;

6. *Encourages* the international community to support national efforts to provide funding for research and data-collection initiatives on ageing in order to better understand the challenges and opportunities presented by population ageing and provide policymakers with more accurate and more specific information on gender and ageing;

7. *Stresses* the need for additional capacity-building at the national level in order to promote and facilitate implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[5] and in this connection encourages Governments to support the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing to enable the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to provide expanded assistance to countries, upon their request;

8. *Recommends* that ongoing efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[6] take into account the situation of older persons;

9. *Takes note* of Commission for Social Development resolution 44/1,[7] in this context invites Member States to undertake an initial identification of actions they have taken since the Second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002 as well as policy recommendations for the further implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, and encourages regional commissions to identify modalities for conducting the regional review and appraisal, including best practices, with the aim of presenting this information to the Commission at its forty-fifth session in 2007;

10. *Recommends* to the Economic and Social Council the integration of ageing into the monitoring, review and appraisal exercises of other major international development initiatives and policy frameworks, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[7] the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development,[8] the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[9] and the Beijing Platform for Action[10] and their follow-up processes;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution, including information on the commemoration of the five-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action in 2007.

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[5] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[6] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[7] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[8] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[9] Ibid., annex II.

[10] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.